

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for reviewing the present application.

A total of 19 claims remain pending in the present application. The foregoing amendments are presented in response to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2010, wherefore reconsideration of this application is requested.

By way of the above-noted amendments, claims 2-8, 13, 17-19, 21 and 24-26 have been amended to more clearly distinguish between the two control bits. No new subject matter has been introduced.

Referring now to the text of the Office Action:

- claims 13 and 21 are objected to; and
- claims 2-8, 12-14, 17-19, 21, 22 and 24-27 stand rejected under 36 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The above-noted rejection is are believed to be traversed by the above-noted amendments, and further in view of the following discussion.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments fully address the Examiner's objections in claims 13 and 21, and the alleged insufficiency of antecedent basis for the recitations of "the control bit" in the claims.

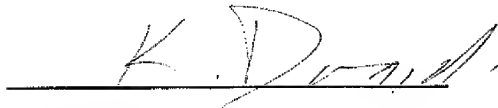
With regard to the Examiner's objections to the phrase "checking a state of a control bit" (claims 7 and 18), Applicant is of the view that the person of ordinary skill in the art to which the present invention pertains would have no difficulty understanding the intended scope or meaning of the claims as they are presently written. In particular, the specification teaches that the first and second control bits are stored in memory 28 (see fig 2 and accompanying description starting at page 4, line 27). The person of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that the present invention does not depend on where these control bits come from. Rather, the person of ordinary skill in the art will immediately recognize that what is important is how the state of these control bits affect the switching/cross-connection operation. Accordingly, there

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appears to be no need or requirement for the Applicant to limit the claims to define the source of the control bits, because the meaning and scope of the claims can be fully understood, by the person of ordinary skill in the art, without such limitations.

In view of the foregoing amendments and comments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early reconsideration and allowance of the present application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "K. Daniels", is written over a horizontal line.

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Date: December 13, 2010

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